

Cape St. Lucas." That Dr. Coues, at that time, was in the habit of designating types in connection with new species which he described is clearly shown by his action in the case of *Dendroica graciae* (p. 67), *Vireo plumbeus* (p. 74), and *V. vicinior* (p. 75). In the case of the last, only, does he take the trouble to use the word type ("Type and only known specimen No. 1507 of my collection," etc.); but even if his intent was not thus perfectly evident, the mere fact that only one specimen is mentioned in connection with his original description of the new species (*Vireo pusillus*), that from Cape St. Lucas, necessarily fixes that specimen as the type, according to the very general and perfectly correct practice in such cases. His designation, twenty-two years later, of another specimen as type may properly be regarded as a mere lapse of memory; but even if not so regarded, the answer may be made that an author has no more right to change his type of a particular species than to change its name without (in the latter case) good reasons for doing so.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

**Swainson's Warbler** (*Helinaia swainsoni*).—On the afternoon of June 17, 1907, Mr. Howard Ray and myself had the good fortune to see, and hear, the rare Swainson's Warbler. It was found about four miles north of Du Quoin, Perry County, Illinois, in a narrow but tall and dense growth of willows, which bordered a low, wet pastureland. As we entered the thicket, our attention was attracted by the loud whistle of some new bird. Going in the direction from which the call came, we found a plain-colored warbler perched about twenty feet from the ground among the smaller branches of the willows. It did not notice us at first, but seemed to put all its spirit and energy into its song. The upper parts of this bird were olive brown, the superciliary line dull white, the under parts dusky white slightly tinged with yellow, and the crown a dull reddish brown, approaching the extreme dull color variation described by Mr. Brewster.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately we had no gun with us and were unable to make a subsequent visit to that locality. There are extensive areas of low, swampy timberland along the Little Muddy River, which contain an abundance of aquatic vegetation and dense shrubbery that are doubtless attractive resorts for this swamp-loving species.

The only other record of this bird in Illinois, as far as I have been able to discover, is that made by Mr. Robert Ridgway and Mr. Brewster in the vicinity of Mount Carmel, southern Illinois, in the spring of 1878.<sup>2</sup>—ALFRED O. GROSS, *Urbana, Ill.*

**Late Occurrence of the Black-poll Warbler** (*Dendroica striata*) in the District of Columbia.—As is well known, the belated spring weather of 1907 affected the birds in almost every locality in the eastern United States;

<sup>1</sup> Auk, Vol. II, 1885, p. 87.

<sup>2</sup> Bulletin N. O. C., Vol. III, p. 163.

hence one erratic record would seem too trivial for publication, but it has occurred to me that the note I now make may possibly be of comparative interest. Black-poll Warblers are usually the last of the warblers to reach the District of Columbia in spring. They are likewise among the last to leave it. Singularly enough, in the spring of 1907 they were a little in advance of their average date of arrival. They lingered in more or less abundance throughout the first ten days of June. I recorded the last on June 16, in the grounds of the National Zoological Park. The latest record theretofore was June 6, 1875, but this was not strictly a District record, having been made at Rosslyn, just across the Potomac River, in Virginia.—R. W. WILLIAMS, JR., *Washington, D. C.*

**The Cañon Wren in Colorado.**—As I believe this Cañon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*) is considered rather rare in Colorado, the following note may be of interest. February 22, 1907, I obtained a pair of these Wrens in a small rocky gulch about two miles south of Golden. Both seemed rather shy, but after shooting the first one the other remained around the same spot so that I was able to obtain it. October 10, while in the same gulch I saw another Cañon Wren near where I had obtained the two in February. I think it probable that these birds breed in this locality and perhaps are not as rare as has been supposed.—CHARLES D. TEST, *Golden, Col.*

**Red-spotted Bluethroat of Alaska.**—While not at all questioning the correctness of Dr. Buturlin's opinion that the Bluethroat of Alaska is different from that of Northern Europe (see Auk, January, 1908, pp. 35-37), I wish to state that both the description and measurements in 'Birds of North and Middle America' (Vol. IV, p. 15) were taken from European specimens, and that I have not seen specimens from either Alaska or eastern Siberia. Of course I should have so stated in the work mentioned, but unfortunately neglected to do so.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

**A Black Robin and its Albinistic Tendencies.**—In November last my attention was called to a caged Robin in this city that had suddenly turned black. I found the bird to be a lively, pugnacious and apparently healthy robin exhibiting a very complete case of melanism. Its plumage was jet black except for a few small, white under tail coverts, apparently two in number, and that when facing the light and viewed at a certain angle the breast feathers appeared to be terminally banded with blackish brown not distinguishable in other positions. The eye-ring was not noticeable, bill nearly black, anterior surfaces of tarsi and dorsi of toes heavily pigmented with blackish slate while the plantar surfaces of these were whitish flesh slightly interrupted by slate color.

The history of this bird, as given me by its owner and corroborated by a local physician who has known it for the last three and a half years, is